

# Mallory: Clubs' 'Passport to Manhood' having an impact

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For Indiana University's winningest head football coach Bill Mallory and his staff, coaching was much more than just teaching players the game. It was also parenting.

During the fourth annual "Man Up to Make a Difference" event, hosted by the Boys and Girls Clubs of Bloomington on Thursday, Mallory said that as a coach he was interested not only in winning, but in making sure the young men in those locker rooms understood it wasn't everything.

"Your focus is to get an education, to graduate and to make something of yourselves," Mallory said he told his players. "And that was always our first goal; second goal was to beat those turkeys up the road."

That commitment to raising young men to be successful, Mallory said, is also reflected in the mission of the Boys and Girls Clubs. Thursday's event was held to support a program developed to do just that.

Mallory said he was particularly impressed with the work done to make sure those who attend the clubs get the help they need academically. He said education was always emphasized to his players and was achieved with the help of a dedicated academic services staff.

According to information provided by United Way of Monroe County, 86 percent of parents surveyed agreed or strongly agreed that the Boys and Girls Clubs were having a positive effect on their child's grades and 97 percent believed that by being involved in the clubs, their children were learning things that would help them be successful later on in life.

Former IU all-star running back and Heisman Trophy runner-up Anthony Thompson said he personally has seen the good the club



Bill Mallory speaks at Boys & Girls Clubs event

Former Indiana University football coach Bill Mallory was the guest speaker at the Boys & Girls Clubs of Bloomington's "Man Up" fundraiser Thursday. Ernest Rollins | Herald-Times

does after being a part of it in Terre Haute. Thompson said his experience with the clubs taught him to believe in himself and continues to help many who need it.

“We are empowering young men and women to be successful in the game of life,” Thompson said. “If it wasn’t for the Boys and Girls Clubs, I would not be standing here today.”

Proceeds from Thursday’s event will go to support one of the programs developed especially to empower young men — the “Passport to Manhood” program.

Jeff Baldwin, executive director of the Bloomington Boys and Girls Clubs, said that the young men learn various life skills through various activities and interact with positive male role models. For some, he said, this is their first experience of having a positive male figure in their life.

According to the club’s website, the program includes sessions on self-esteem, personal leadership and community responsibility, responses to authority, relationships with girls, and fatherhood and family. It seeks to help the young men learn about what it means to be a man.

EDITOR’S NOTE: This story is part of a weekly series that will highlight the work of the 25 local nonprofits funded by the United Way of Monroe County. United Way is in the midst of its annual campaign, which has a fundraising goal of \$1.3 million. Find out more at [monroeunitedway.org](http://monroeunitedway.org).